

Ref. T2/603

**RECOMMENDATION ON PREVENTION OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE ON
THE 8, 12 AND 16 MHz GMDSS DISTRESS AND
SAFETY SIMPLEX FREQUENCIES**

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its first session (19 to 23 February 1996), reiterated its concern at the harmful interference being caused on HF simplex GMDSS distress and safety frequencies, which, if not stopped, would seriously affect GMDSS communications. The Sub-Committee noted that this issue was also addressed at COM 39; however, the situation continues to be unacceptable.

2 To address the issue, the Sub-Committee again drew attention to the recommendation on prevention of harmful interference on the 8, 12 and 16 MHz simplex GMDSS distress and safety frequencies, given in the annex.

3 Member Governments are invited to draw the problem, highlighted above, to the attention of their telecommunication authorities urging them to take co-ordinated action to prevent this serious interference.

4 This circular supercedes COM/Circ.119.

ANNEX**RECOMMENDATION ON PREVENTION OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE ON THE
8, 12 AND 16 MHz GMDSS DISTRESS AND SAFETY
SIMPLEX FREQUENCIES**

There is at present considerable man made disruption to the GMDSS distress and safety radiotelephone frequencies 8291, 12290 and 16420 kHz. This interference severely degrades the effectiveness of these new distress and safety frequencies and therefore is considered "harmful" as defined in Article 22 of the Radio Regulations (RR) and requires urgent action by Administrations in accordance with RR 1957.

There is an apparent anomaly in the RRs (Nos. 4375 and 4376 refer), whereby the ship transmit frequencies of international radiotelephone channels 1121 (ship transmit 12290 kHz, ship receive 13137 kHz) and 1621 (ship transmit 16420 kHz, ship receive 17302 kHz) are also allocated as GMDSS radiotelephony distress and safety channels.

In accordance with the RR 4375 and 4376, ship stations may use 12290 kHz and 16420 kHz for distress and safety traffic. These frequencies are however paired with 13137 kHz and 17302 kHz which are used by coast stations. The details of the frequency plan are given in the Table of Single-Sideband Transmitting Frequencies for Duplex (Two-frequency) Operation in Section A of Appendix 16 of the RR. RR 4375.3 further authorizes the frequencies 12290 kHz and 16420 kHz for common use by coast and ship stations for single-sideband radiotelephony on a simplex basis for distress and safety traffic.

As a result, considerable interference during search and rescue communications is experienced due to ships being unable to monitor their transmit frequency in the duplex mode.

To overcome this problem, Administrations are urgently requested, where relevant, to move their coast radio stations calling frequencies from channels 1221 and 1621 in these bands to any other suitable channel. This would then allow the channels on carrier frequencies 12290 kHz and 16420 kHz as allowed in ITU regulations RR 4375 and RR 4376 to be used exclusively for distress and safety traffic by radio telephony on simplex basis.

It is further recommended that Administrations propose, through their telecommunications authorities, to the ITU that the channels 12290 kHz and 16420 kHz shall be used on an exclusive basis for this purpose, as is the case for the 8291 kHz frequency (RRs N3001 and N3067 refer).

Administrations are urged to monitor the frequencies 8291, 12290 and 16420 kHz, and to report cases of harmful interferences as prescribed by Article 22 of the ITU RR.